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## The National Air Sports Policy 2022

### Why in news?

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched a national sports policy to promote sports like aerobatics, hot-air ballooning, and paragliding.

### What is the potential of air sports ecosystem in India?

*Air sports are managed by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) around the world. Headquartered in Switzerland, the FAI is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).*

- The air sports ecosystem in India holds the potential to generate over 1 lakh direct jobs and generate annual revenue of Rs 10,000 crore.
- Besides economic benefits, the sector is expected to boost tourism, travel, infrastructure and employment, especially in hilly areas.
- The main intention is to promote the sector by providing a safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable air sports ecosystem.
- The idea behind NASP 2022 is to engage migratory air sports professionals who move away from prominent air sports locations during the winter season.

### What are the key features of the National Air Sports Policy?

- **Aim-** The NASP 2022, aims to make India one of the top air sports nations by 2030.
- **Definition-** The policy document defines air sports as sports activities involving the medium of air.
  - Examples include air-racing, aerobatics, hang gliding, paragliding and skydiving.
- **Governing body-** A four-tier structure will be established to govern aero sports, with the Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) as the apex body.
- The ASFI will be an autonomous body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).
- **Airsports included-** The National Air Sport Policy (NASP), 2022, lists 11 games under this category.
- These include aerobatics, aero modelling and rocketry, ballooning, amateur-built and experimental aircraft, drones, gliding and power gliding, hand gliding and power hand gliding, parachuting, paragliding and paramotoring, powered aircraft and rotor aircraft.
- **Safety-** Air sports associations will lay down the safety standards for equipment, infrastructure, personnel and training as per global best practices for the respective sport.
- An accident related to air sports has to be reported to the concerned air sports association in writing along with a copy to the ASFI within 48 hours.

- **Registration for air sports-** All persons and organisations engaged in air sports or providing related services have to compulsorily register as members of air sports associations.
- Key equipment will also have to be registered with the air sports association.
- **Equipments-** To promote air sports, the Centre is likely to advocate for 5% or less of GST on equipment.
- Presently, the GST on air sports equipment is 18 to 28%.
- **Authorisation of sports flights-** Since air sports activities will share space with the manned and unmanned aircraft already in operation, they will be conducted in coordination with the ATC.
- Every national air sports association will rely on airspace data published by the aeronautical information publication as well as notice to airmen (NOTAM).
- All necessary clearances need to be obtained from authorities at least 24 hours in advance.
- **Segregated Airspaces-** In areas where air sports are frequently conducted, air sports associations have to apply to the MoCA for the establishment of 'Segregated Airspaces'.
- The details of approval will be published in the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP)- India.
- **Violation of air sports rules-** Violation of the rules laid out by the policy will attract penalties up to a maximum of Rs. 50,000.

## What is unique about the newly established policy framework for aero sports?

- A four-tier structure will be established to govern aero sports.

TIER	BODIES/ORGANISATIONS
First	Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI)
Second	National associations for individual air sports
Third	Regional units and their state affiliates
Fourth	District-level air sports associations

- **ASFI-** The apex body will govern aspects of regulation, certification, competitions, awards and penalties.
- It will be responsible for organising promotional events, and competitions with the help of national air sports associations.
- The ASFI will have the Ministry of Civil Aviation Secretary as its head while the Ministry Joint Secretary will be appointed as the Member Secretary.
- Its governing council will have representatives from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Airports Authority of India (AAI) among others.
- A secretariat will also be set up in the ASFI.
- ASFI will publish its draft guidelines within six months.
- **National air sports associations-** These associations will
  - Handle the regulatory issues related to safety, training, licensing and airworthiness
  - Coordinate with Air Traffic Control (ATC) to ensure safe operations alongside manned and unmanned flights
  - Organise competitions at the national level and collaborate with international organisations
  - Maintain all flight records and other data from these competitions
  - Frame rules for insurance and compensation in case of accidents

## References

1. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/national-air-sports-policy-2022-civil-aviation-scindia-details/article65509889.ece?homepage=true>
2. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-india-new-policy-air-sports-civil-aviation-ministry-7964609/>



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